

From: Dean, Bernard <Bernard.Dean@leg.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 4:08 PM
To: Joseph O'Sullivan
Cc: Public Records, House; Hellberg, Alison
Subject: RE: Seattle Times inquiry

Joe,

This is a response to your public records request, received on April 15, 2019. It was assigned it tracking number 20190418_139.

Your request seeks a copy of the Jeff Morris investigation report.

Please note that a specific definition of "public records" applies to the Legislature under the public records act. RCW 42.56.010 and RCW 40.14.100 define the scope of that term:

* RCW 42.56.010 - "Public record" includes any writing containing information relating to the conduct of government or the performance of any governmental or proprietary function prepared, owned, used, or retained by any state or local agency regardless of physical form or characteristics. For the office of the secretary of the senate and the office of the chief clerk of the house of representatives, public records means legislative records as defined in RCW 40.14.100 and also means the following: All budget and financial records; personnel leave, travel, and payroll records; records of legislative sessions; reports submitted to the legislature; and any other record designated a public record by any official action of the senate or the house of representatives.

* RCW 40.14.100 - "Legislative records" shall be defined as correspondence, amendments, reports, and minutes of meetings made by or submitted to legislative committees or subcommittees and transcripts or other records of hearings or supplementary written testimony or data thereof filed with committees or subcommittees in connection with the exercise of legislative or investigatory functions, but does not include the records of an official act of the legislature kept by the secretary of state, bills and their copies, published materials, digests, or multi-copied matter which are routinely retained and otherwise available at the state library or in a public repository, or reports or correspondence made or received by or in any way under the personal control of the individual members of the legislature.

The document you requested does not fit within the definition of "public records" that applies to the Legislature.

As you know, the House contracted with an investigator to review workplace concerns. While I cannot provide details of the nature of these concerns, I can share that there were no allegations of sexual

harassment or any other unlawful behavior. The review is complete and we are working with the stakeholders to address the report's recommendations. We consider this to be an ongoing personnel matter and do not plan to release any materials related to the contractor's work. With this response, your records request is now closed.

Sincerely,

Bernard Dean
Chief Clerk
Washington House of Representatives
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7750

-----Original Message-----

From: Joseph O'Sullivan <josullivan@seattletimes.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 3:46 PM
To: Dean, Bernard <Bernard.Dean@leg.wa.gov>
Subject: Seattle Times inquiry

Bernard - I am seeking a copy of the Jeff Morris investigation report.

Respectfully,

Joseph O'Sullivan
The Seattle Times

Sent from my iPhone